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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 746

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Chancellor Joe B. Wyatt
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their personal and professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Chancellor Joe Wyatt, who is a most distinguished and prominent citizen of the state of Tennessee and is wholly dedicated to quality higher education, the greater Nashville community and his family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wyatt is retiring in July 2000, upon having served with distinction as the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University for eighteen years; a gifted administrator and distinguished gentleman, his accomplishments will always be remembered as an example of excellence in higher education that earned the school's increased prominence as a truly national university; and

WHEREAS, a native of Texas, Chancellor Wyatt received degrees in mathematics from Texas Christian University and the University of Texas; and

WHEREAS, before being deservedly appointed as Chancellor at Vanderbilt University, he devoted his professional energies to Harvard University where his laudable service as Vice-President of Administration was greatly respected; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wyatt became the sixth Chancellor at Vanderbilt in 1982; a computer scientist and executive, he brought the University his concept that information technology is a strategic resource of accelerating global importance in education, research and patient care; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his influence in technology, Chancellor Wyatt pushed the University community to unprecedented levels of involvement in volunteer community service; half of all undergraduates are engaged in volunteer programs and the number of service organizations have exploded; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Alternative Spring Break was founded by students with Mr. Wyatt's support; over 300 undergraduates participated in the program's twenty-two domestic and three international sites in 1999; and

WHEREAS, due to Chancellor Wyatt's financial skills and expert leadership, he helped establish the non-profit Break Away: The Alternative Break Connection to assist colleges across the country start alternative spring breaks at their respective institutions; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Wyatt's influence affects the entire country; he has led a national effort to improve elementary and secondary education in the nation's public and private schools, and brought together the most diverse student body Vanderbilt University has yet seen; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Wyatt's tireless pursuit of excellence in education reaped large dividends when in 1989, the University's undergraduate programs were ranked among the top 25 national universities overall; and

WHEREAS, Vanderbilt has continuously maintained its position in the overall top 25 national universities, and in addition, Peabody College, Owen Graduate School of Management,

the School of law and the School of Medicine have all received high national recognition for the superior quality of education provided in these programs; and

WHEREAS, because of Joe Wyatt's vision as an administrator, the Medical Center expanded most dramatically, now accounting for more than 70 percent of the University's income and expenses, and employing almost half of the full-time faculty, more than half of the part-time faculty, and the majority of staff; and

WHEREAS, it was under Chancellor Wyatt's forceful and imaginative leadership that Vanderbilt University experienced dynamic growth; since 1982, the University has acquired or built one-third of the campus - more than four million square feet of mostly new construction; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Wyatt spent a majority of the early 90s working with trustees and staff in The Campaign for Vanderbilt, the most ambitious fundraising effort in the institution's history; the most recent campaign ended in 1995 and raised \$560 million, now, Vanderbilt has an endowment of \$1.8 billion, the operating budget has grown to \$1.3 billion, and sponsored research has more than quadrupled since 1981; and

WHEREAS, a most significant accomplishment of Chancellor Wyatt's astounding tenure has been the improvement in the quality of Vanderbilt's faculty; excellence in scholarship, teaching, and public service are requirements for all members of the faculty, and the number of endowed faculty chairs has increased from 39 in 1982 to more than 100 today; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Joe Wyatt leaves behind upon his retirement will be fondly remembered and greatly treasured by his loyal friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to recognize this accomplished educator and administrator; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Joe B. Wyatt, Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, reflecting with admiration on Mr. Wyatt's exemplary character, his many accomplishments, and his outstanding contributions to Vanderbilt and to higher education as a whole. We extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.